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IN DEEP PLACES

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AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR



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IN DEEP PLACES

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IN  
DEEP  
PLACES

*A Book of Verse*

by

*Amelia Josephine  
Burr*



*New York  
George H. Doran Company*

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LL66 I5  
1914

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To J.

"O thou that knowest, turn and see—  
"Heart of my heart, have I done well?"

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A number of the poems in this volume are here included through the courtesy of the publishers of the Century Magazine, Harper's Monthly, Scribner's Magazine, The Bellman, the London Bookman, the Nation, the Ladies' Home Journal, Lippincott's, Harper's Bazaar, the Delineator, and the Poetry Journal, in which magazines they first appeared.



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IN DEEP PLACES

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## JEHANE

"And had she come so far for this —

"To part at last without a kiss,

"Beside the haystack in the floods!"

*Morris.*

**I***N garments gray of sleety rain  
The wind across the sodden plain  
Went visibly, and through it went  
Gray as a gust, her slender form  
Swathed in wet robes, and forward bent  
Against the pushing of the storm.  
Stumbling she ran, as one far spent,  
But the pale splendour of her face  
Was set as toward a trysting place,  
And there was need of glances twain  
Ere one could see the lines of pain  
Round lips grown patient ere their day,  
And mark the early white that lay  
Like Lenten ashes in her hair.  
She went with eyes that never swerved  
Until at last she halted where  
The glazing pools had wellnigh drowned  
A heap of timbers that had served  
To prop a haystack, in years past.  
She stretched her on the icy ground*

JEHANE (continued)

*Sighing for sheer content, as one  
Who wearied leans when day is done  
Upon love's breast, and said —*

At last —

At last I come to you, to tell  
Of all these years. If ill or well  
I did, judge you; and yet, somehow,  
I think you will not judge me, now,  
But only stoop from God's right hand  
And whisper, "Dear, I understand."  
Can they have wiped in Paradise  
So well the sorrow from your eyes  
That from your heart is cleansed away  
Even the shadow of that day  
When you and I, in just this place,  
Met death and Godmar face to face  
Beside the haystack in the floods?  
You by the sword to perish, I  
Later by bitter ways to die  
In Paris as a sorceress  
Unless . . . but there was no "unless"  
For me, who loved you so, I knew  
At such a price, each breath you drew

JEHANE (continued)

Would strangle you. I answered No.  
I never have forgot to miss  
Through all these years, the single kiss  
Denied our parting, long ago.  
But then I saw the end so near  
I thought, "Not long the waiting, Dear,  
"Until we meet!" . . . I did not know. . . .

WHEN you were dead, he freed from stain  
His blade, and sheathed it. Through  
the rain

We rode toward Paris. Wet and gray  
Closed in the curtains of the day,  
And as we rode, I thought,—"To night!  
"Death is a bridal flower of white,  
"Mine for the plucking!" And I swore  
That you and I should meet before  
The mockery of another dawn.  
Rapt from the flesh I rode, and ere  
I woke to know that we had drawn  
Rein at an inn, Godmar was there  
Beside my stirrup. Down I slid  
Ere he could touch me.

## JEHANE (continued)

“What I did,  
“You bade me do!” I heard his breath  
Catch like a sob. “You still choose death,  
“Jehane? It is not yet too late —”  
It seemed I was too tired to hate,  
For I felt nothing. Pale and grim  
I saw the tortured face of him  
An evil star against the night,  
And then — it faded. . . .

When the sight  
Came back to me, I lay in bed,  
An old bent woman o’er my head  
Crooning in mother-wise, her face  
Kind in the firelight. “Mary’s grace  
“Be praised,” she cried, “you live at length!  
“Drink this, dear lady, mend your  
strength!”  
I turned away, but — “Think!” she said;  
“A double hunger must be fed.  
“Not yours alone the need.”

My heart  
Stopped. Then it strove to beat apart  
My breast. With lips grown stiff and cold



JEHANE (continued)

I stammered, "He must not be told —  
"Godmar — as you may hope for Heaven!"

"No whisper, by the Sorrows Seven!"

She vowed, and then — "You had not  
known?"

"Poor child. . . ."

I might have been her own.

I cannot pray for her by name —

God knows her, though.

The morning came,

But now I could not bear to die.

The trees against a perfect sky

Prickled with twigs. It seemed that I

Was part of the awakening earth

And that to bring your child to birth

Was all for which myself was made.

I would have trodden unafraid

Hell's deepest, with that end in sight.

Robert — the gates of hell that night

Again stood open. I went in. . . .

JEHANE (continued)

I CARED as little for the sin  
As for the anguish and the shame.  
It seemed my secret swept like flame  
Body and soul, and burned them clean.  
About his castle, gold and green  
The thickets kindled, and I said  
Within my heart, "When they grow red. . . ."  
God pitied me; ere spring was spent  
War called to Godmar, and he went.  
Watched like a prisoner was I  
But strangely sweet the days went by  
Until I smiled to see at last  
The crimson leaves come whirling past.  
Robert — the rapture of that pain!

WHEN with the snows he came again,  
I had resolved what must be done.  
Silent I met him, with my son  
Held in my arms. He stopped astound.  
In all the room there was no sound  
But his hoarse breathing. Then —  
"Jehane . . . ."  
"I had not thought of — this . . ." he said.

JEHANE (continued)

WITH solemn masses we were wed.  
What mattered it that Godmar gave  
The boy his name? There were your  
brave  
Clear eyes — your brow —  
I feared to bear  
Godmar a child, lest he compare  
The twain, when he must needs have  
known. . . .  
But years went by, with yours alone  
The pivot of our household pride.  
He seemed the gallant heart that died  
In me, with you. And Godmar — strange  
That simple happiness can change  
A man so much! Thwarted desire  
Made him a fiend — but when the fire  
Was left unchecked, it swiftly burned  
Its violence away, and turned  
To comfortable embers, fit  
To warm a hearth where musing sit  
Good placid folk whose youth is done.  
While he would talk of what “our son”  
Should do, sometime — far far away

## JEHANE (continued)

As through the rain, I saw that day  
When murdered at his feet you lay,  
And thought, could it be I and he  
Who sat at meat so quietly,  
Your boy between us!

Years that seem,  
Now they are over, like a dream  
I am too weary to recall. . . .  
The night he died, I told him all.  
One heavy tear slid down his cheek.  
He fought for breath awhile, then, weak  
But clear, he spoke — “My heir . . . the  
same. . . .”  
No more. And so to Godmar came  
His touch of greatness at the end.  
I prayed for him as for a friend.

**R**OBERT, it seems to me to-day  
No life is wholly thrown away.  
We are the seedcorn, you and I,  
Dead in the dark, that youth may pry  
The clods asunder toward the sky.  
My part is played, my task is done.

## JEHANE (continued)

Life opens nobly to our son.  
The King has made him knight, and he  
Has now no longer need of me —  
Man as he is, and true, and strong. . . .  
The kiss that I have kept so long,—  
It seems that all my life has passed  
Into that kiss . . . and now . . . at last,  
Beloved . . . now. . . .

*A sigh, and then  
No other sound. So still she lay  
The hailstones on her mantle gray  
Deepened to little drifts like snow.  
This was the way they met again  
Where they had parted, long ago.*

## ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT

ALLAH is with the patient. Long ago  
I sat with eyes and thoughts that wandered far  
And heard as in a dream my father's voice  
Speaking to me as now I speak to thee,  
Who heedest little as I heeded him.  
What place had patience in a young man's  
heart?  
The sky was languid with the sunset glow,  
The sweet air swooned with purple mysteries,—  
Was it an hour for aught but eagerness  
As women passed on slender tinkling feet,  
Flashing like jewelled beetles from the dusk,  
And vanishing again, yet leaving clear  
A trail of perfume on the evening air  
That drew a man to follow? Who was I  
To squat with gray-beards by the waning  
fire?

ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

Well I remember how the challenge came  
Of jasmine scent from wayward garments  
blown

And how I leapt to meet it! As I went,  
I heard my father sighing in his beard,  
“Allah is with the patient.” But there  
comes

An end to eagerness. I had not thought  
I could grow weary of enkindling eyes,  
Slight luring limbs, and fingers trained to  
beat

The song of passion on the hearts of men  
As on a darabukkeh. But there came  
A night when I grew sick of jasmine scent  
As of the scent of fever, and the sight  
Of smiling lips moist-parted left me cold —  
A night when walls closed like a trap on me,  
And like a grave-stone lay upon my head  
The shadow of the roof. So I went out  
Under the calm illimitable sky,  
Under the quiet scrutiny of stars  
That stood apart like spirits, and looked on,  
And as I felt the sweep of desert wind

ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

Upon my face, I raised my voice and sang.  
"Wise with much seeing are the eyes of  
night.  
"What can amaze, what sicken, what delight  
"The passionless cold vigil of the stars?  
"Too much has been for any more to be  
"That can dismay their far tranquill-  
lity. . . ."

I DID not sing the ending of the song,  
"Thine eyes are like the stars, O heart of  
me —  
"Like the unmoved omniscience of the  
stars. . . ."  
I could not sing those words; the eyes I knew  
Smouldered like perfumed braziers near to  
earth,  
Or like the homely embers that make warm  
The cooking-pot. "Perchance in Paradise,"  
I thought, "the houris that are Allah's glance  
"Of favour on the faithful, have those eyes  
"Of wise and starry calm. I will await



ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

“The gaze of them.” And as there came to  
me

A sudden memory of my father’s words,  
I flung them like a challenge to the stars —

“Allah is with the patient!” I was  
young. . . .

THE hand of power on our village closed,  
For there was war; and many of the  
youths

Went full of heaviness, with backward eyes.

It was not so with me; gladly I strode

As to a feast, and bright upon me shone

The lifted brows of peril — but I found

Small glory in that war; of hunger much,

And much of weariness and aching limbs,

Much of the lurking death we could not see

That trod our shadows, striking from be-  
hind —

The sudden bullet singing from the waste

Was our mean death-chant, not the gener-  
ous cry

## ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

Of clanging steel; it seemed we never  
ceased

Panting across interminable sands  
Down into troughs that, sneering, the mir-  
age

Painted with blue like sky-reflecting pools,  
Up over ridges where the sand slid back,  
Drowning the print the lifted foot had left,  
Sweating we laboured; always as it seemed  
We came too late for glory. Other swords  
In hostile blood found easing of their thirst,  
And other eyes with pride of battle  
burned,—

Not ours, that strained too often toward the  
blue

That mocked us in the hollows of the sand  
Looked dull upon a pool that was no lie,  
As when we knew that we were free to seek  
Our homes again, and that the war was  
done

And victory was ours, that "victory"  
Left us but listless, for its sound was flat  
Like a cracked cymbal. Once again I said

ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

“Allah is with the patient!” and a man  
Who heard it, laughed. His laugh was ill  
to hear,

But lo, his eyes gave back my face to me,  
And my own smile was bitterer than his.  
But softly spoke another, “Dost thou laugh,  
“Brother? It is no jest—the word is  
true —

“Allah is with the patient. Blessed be  
“His name to all the ages.” “It is well  
“For thee to speak, perchance,” the laugh-  
er said.

“Thou goest gladly to a waiting home;  
“What dost thou care for glory? But for  
me

“A woman waits who will but spit on me  
“Since I have won no fame to honour her.”  
“And I,” then cried myself, “for me there  
waits

“No woman anywhere; my only hope  
“Was glory for the glory’s sake, and now,  
“Cheated of that, I am a dupe indeed.”  
“Nay,” said our comrade gently, and I saw

ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

A little pulse that quivered in his cheek,  
"For me there waits no woman. She is  
dead,

"And on her breast the babe I never saw

"Is also dead. I had no will to go —

"The soldiers took me. Blessed be the  
name

"Of Allah —" "And you still can say," I  
cried,

"That he is with the patient?" Then he  
turned

The slow majestic sadness of his look

Full upon me. "Were it not so," he said,

"Would they not be more lonely than the  
stars?"

He went away, and left us there afraid —

And yet he was a little man, and weak.

Humbler I turned me homeward, for I  
knew

There was a thing I had not understood.

When to the village I came back at last,

There were no songs for me. I looked for  
none.

## ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

Only my father met me at the door  
And peered into my face, for he was old  
And saw but little — yet he saw enough  
To make him smile. “It is my son,” he  
said,

“He has come back to me a man at last —  
“Allah is with the patient.”

So I stayed  
Quiet among my people, and I ploughed  
My father’s feddans, and the days went  
by.

I wedded and was faithful — if at times  
Dreams drew me forth alone beneath the  
stars,

She found me no less kindly for the dreams.  
Then thou wert born, and when I looked on  
thee

As full of pride she laid thee in my arms,  
I saw in thee those wise and starry eyes  
Of lonely glory — and my heart was glad,  
Finding my dream come true. But with  
the years

The heavenly wonder died, and in its place

ALLAH IS WITH THE PATIENT (continued)

The old earth-wonder came. And then I  
thought

“Would he but learn of me —” Ah! he is  
gone. . . .

Each for himself must turn the page of life  
And read its wisdom through a blur of  
tears,

And yet — might I have made it clear to  
him,

My son! May Allah, blessed be his name,  
Allah, whose heart has yearned the ages  
through

To every generation, as my heart  
Yearns to my son,—may Allah give him  
light.

Thou who art with the patient, lead him  
home

And give me of thy patience, while I wait.

## AT DENDERA

**H**ERE in this narrow chamber, where one ray  
Quickens the jewel-coloured walls, I stand  
Alone, a Queen, to speak to thee, a Queen.  
I, Cleopatra, lift my face to meet  
Thy silent face, Hathor, in this thy house,  
Hither I came through fields of mellow  
green  
Where prostrate peasants lifted peering eyes  
To see the Great Queen's passing; labour  
fell  
Stricken to silence at the sight of me.  
Only the patient saquias wailed on  
As round and round the blindfold bullocks  
trod—  
And yet I knew behind me they arose  
Like trampled grain, and went about their  
toil,  
Even as my courtiers when my shadow falls  
No more upon them, turn them to their  
sport.

AT DENDERA (continued)

That world — what has that world to do  
with me?

Here in thy temple, here am I at home,  
For thou and I are one at heart. To thee  
Hath ever been my longing, though at first  
I knew it not. Earth was too beautiful —  
I could not see beyond — and all of me  
That was of earth, cried out for earth's de-  
light.

I was athirst for life, and royally  
I took what I deemed life — ay, like a Queen  
I crushed the grapes of mortal joy and  
drank

The wine thereof, and still I was athirst.  
Again I sought new vintage, and again,  
While to my fingers clung the lees like blood.  
Hathor, thou Merciless! I give thee thanks,  
Through all those drunken days I thirsted  
still!

And yet I was so slow to understand,  
Nor knew that when on passion's very  
mouth

I trembled and grew cold, it was thy face



AT DENDERA (continued)

That came between, slaying the transient joy  
With thine immortal breath; and so I fled  
From lover unto lover, till at last  
I knew that not in man was my desire  
Nor in the fruit of man. I came to thee,  
Hathor, at last, as now I come to thee.  
It is enough that I am beautiful  
For Beauty's sake — I ask not that men's  
eyes

Caress my loveliness, nor that a child  
Should bear it like a banner down the years.  
Enough for me that I myself have lived  
And looked upon thy face of mystery,  
Thou Gladness of the gods. . . . I am con-  
tent.

Have I not proved what earth-bound hearts  
call joy?

Love . . . what is love? Have I not known  
desire,—

Yea, have I not brought forth a son? And  
yet

My heart was still athirst. Thou knowest,  
thou,

## AT DENDERA (continued)

Smiling that still wise smile of thine. Thou  
too

Hast borne a Horus, yet we worship thee  
Not babe at breast, like Isis, but alone,  
Mateless, unconquerable,— there is not one  
Of all the gods may dare to call thee his,  
Mistress of whom thou wilt, but slave of  
none.

Therefore, since thou hast shown to me thy  
way,

Free as the desert wind, I lift to thee  
My hands, and in them, Egypt. Unto thee  
Will I raise up a temple, fairer far  
Than even this; to thee will I raise up  
Myself in perfect beauty, perfect power,  
My foot upon the weakness of mankind,  
Spurning it while it lifts me. Men shall see  
Hathor in Cleopatra, and bow down  
Smitten to worship that shall know no end,  
Yea, even Rome! Thou seest . . . and  
shalt see. . . .

**A**ND *nearing cloudlike o'er the lower blue,*  
*Antony's galley swelled her amber sails.*

AT ROMEO'S TOMB

A Y, gentle stranger, here lies Romeo.  
Thou art no Veronese . . . from Florence? What,  
Speak they of Romeo so far away?  
Tell me, my son, what do they say of him?  
“The king of lovers — and a noble heart  
“Unwilling to brook life when love was gone —”  
Are they not young who say it — mates of thine?  
So many words that blossom fulsome sweet  
Ripen to bitter fruit as men grow old —  
I would not have you think of Romeo thus.  
His death was noble? Nay — it was but young.  
No friend of his? I was his nearest friend,  
Even more privy to his inmost mind  
Than was Mercutio's self, I dare to say,  
And therefore I would have thee think of him

## AT ROMEO'S TOMB (continued)

Thoughts that shall change only toward tenderness

As the blood cools and slackens in its race  
And less of life lies in a woman's hand.

Judge not my Romeo as a man is judged. . . .  
Hadst thou but seen him when he came to me!

(He knew that I would shelter him, poor child,

Though he had laid a score of Tybalts cold)  
We heard Verona roaring through the streets

Louder than floods in spring. The memory  
After so long, is pitiful to tears —

His heart was fluttering like the candle-flame  
Before the altar, on a windy day.

Romeo a man? No, no — he was a child,

A slender, scarcely-budded slip of spring,

The calyx-bursting promise of a rose

Flung to the foamy rage of Adige

And beaten down the rapids to its doom —

A blade untempered, broken ere its time

In the great battle — oh, a child, a child

AT ROMEO'S TOMB (continued)

Caught in the millstones that grind up men's  
hearts

To be the bread of centuries unborn.

Dreaming, he was enamoured of a dream,  
And from the drowsy wonder of his eyes  
Rubbed life like sleep away; so burst on him  
The blinding day of immortality. . . .

On him, who was not yet awake to earth!  
How like a child astray he must have stared  
Upon the pitying angels!

Juliet?

Ay, call her woman if thou wilt, for she  
Can bear thy judgment; but for Romeo —  
Pray thou for him to-night as for a child.  
My name? 'Tis Laurence.

Peace to thee, my son.

PETRUCHIO'S WIFE

**A**Y, go your ways, my lord. Look where he  
struts

And ruffles it along the sunny street!  
His doublet's broken at the seam again —  
I'll look to it when he comes home. He's  
worse

Than any wanton youngling on his gear.  
A gallant bearing — he is well worth ten  
Of my fair sister's pretty mummer. Bah!  
Playing the schoolmaster to win a bride  
He might have had by knocking at the door  
And shaking a fat purse! Petruchio  
Measures more nearly to a man's degree;  
Yet he is but a boy, an o'er-grown boy.  
Was ever man so easily deceived?  
What, did he think that he could master me  
By wearying my body, starving it,  
Shaming it with vile raiment? Bless the  
fool!

And yet I swear I did not bless him then —

PETRUCHIO'S WIFE (continued)

I could have slain him rather ; but I thought,  
“ Kate, thou art married ; make the best of it.  
“ Thou hadst been wiser to lead apes in hell,  
“ But since thy cup of folly has been poured,  
“ Drink it off smiling. He shall pay anon.”

There at Bianca's feast, when he would show  
His power so braggartly, I had well-nigh  
Defied him to his face,— but I recalled  
Hortensio's fine madam, and her taunt.

“ What other way to sting so well,” thought  
I,

“ As show myself the model, her the  
shrew? ”

Eh, did I sweetly play the pattern wife?  
Ask of Petruchio's purse, where merrily  
His fellow-bridegroom's golden forfeits  
clinked —

(Until he spent the better part of them  
Upon a cap richer an hundredfold  
Than that I spurned to please him!) Am I  
tamed?

Thus much, perhaps . . . that now I play  
my part

## PETRUCHIO'S WIFE (continued)

Not bitterly, but laughing in a sleeve  
Which now is fashioned to my own desire,  
I praying his approval; and instead  
Of anger at his boastful boyishness  
Is something, neither pity nor yet love —  
The child of both, perchance.

I used to think  
That when I held the larder keys, himself  
Should fast some day, to pay that fast of  
mine.

But when the time came, I no longer cared  
For little vengeance on a little wrong.  
And so I feed him well, and speak him fair,  
And keep him bravely clad, and when he  
meets

His friends, he vaunts the merits of his  
wife,

While they all marvel at the mastered  
shrew!

Look — he comes home — he's never long  
away.

How boyish-gay he waves an eager hand,  
Seeing me waiting at the window here!



PETRUCHIO'S WIFE (continued)

God rest thee merry, good Petruchio;  
How I could love thee . . . wert thou more  
a man!

*My excellent dear lord! Art thou returned?  
Then is the day grown bright for Katharine!*

RAMESES WORSHIPS RAMESES AT  
ABU SIMBEL

OF all the gods I understand thee least,  
Thou god whose altar is the heart of me;  
Therefore I leave the Others to the priest  
While I myself do reverence to thee.  
Avails my worship aught? The incense  
mounts  
In silent exhalation like a prayer  
Made visible — what sense of thine accounts  
Acceptable its fragrance? Thou art —  
where?  
I call unto the Others, and they hear;  
But thou — I cannot tell. Thou art too  
near.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE Sun I know: the lotus-bud of dawn  
Through countless vigils have I seen unfold,  
Veil after veil of green and rose withdrawn

## RAMESES WORSHIPS RAMESES (continued)

Yielding at last the blinding heart of gold  
To me expectant. I have known the Sun,  
His kindness and his wrath, as I have known  
The counsellor who sits at my right hand,  
Yet thou to me art still the Hidden One.  
The cold mysterious Moon, pacing alone  
His jewelled house — the restless golden  
sand

Forever changing, like another sea —  
The fruitful River in its majesty,  
Mother alike and father of our land —  
These I can see, these I can understand.  
What veil impenetrable shelters Thee?

\* \* \* \* \*

THE Judges of the darkness and the dead,  
Unhuman arbiters of heaven and hell,  
Creatures whose face is not the face of man,  
Creatures whose power of life and death  
began  
With life and death, and shall with them be  
sped —  
Unseen, I know them; yea, I know them  
well.

## RAMESES WORSHIPS RAMESES (continued)

I call them each by name . . . but thou  
Unknown,  
What name have I to call thee save mine  
own?

\* \* \* \* \*

MINE own — and yet I know thou art not I.  
Here in this temple have I honoured thee  
Where by the River, carved giant-high,  
My fourfold image, eloquently dumb,  
Sits dominating centuries to come.  
I say it is thine Image — do I lie?

\* \* \* \* \*

A CROSS my proudest moments I have heard  
Thy terrible hushed laughter; stranger  
still —

Sometimes amid the battle, as I fought  
With a god's fury, plain as spoken word  
Thy patient weary sigh revealed to me  
My rage as futile as the prize I sought.  
And often when my courage has been chill  
With inward questioning, my languor caught  
Fire of a sudden from thy smile unseen.

## RAMESES WORSHIPS RAMESES (continued)

Again, when some flushed vision swift and  
keen

Struck music from my fancy, as the sun  
From Memnon, came thy calm, unuttered  
scorn —

“So many lessons — dullard, still un-  
taught?”

\* \* \* \* \*

THOU art a god, and I am but a king.

The people hail me god, and oft a glow  
Responsive thrills me, till thy thought I  
know —

“Thou simple fool, thou perishable thing,

“’Tis I they worship — thou art but the  
shrine.”

Nay, I am more — else could I know thee  
there?

I know that in some sort I am divine.

Yea, this I know — and yet I know not  
how —

When the last mystery to me is bare,  
The underworld shall show me on thy brow  
The final beauty Death has wrought on mine.

## IN THE ROMAN FORUM

NOTHING but beauty, now.  
No longer at the point of goading fear  
The sullen, tributary world comes near  
Before all-subjugating Rome to bow.  
No more the pavement of the Forum rings  
To breathless victory's exultant tread  
Before the heavy march of captive kings.  
Here stood the royal dead  
In sculptured immortality, their gaze  
Remote above the turmoil of the street  
Hoarse with its living struggle at their feet.  
Here spoke the law — that voice of bronze  
    was heard  
By all the world, and stirred  
The latent mind of nations in the bud.  
Bright with the laurels, bitter with the  
    blood  
Of heroes upon heroes was this place  
Where the strong heart of an imperial race

IN THE ROMAN FORUM (continued)

Beat with the essence of a nation's life.  
Princes and people evermore at strife —  
Incense and worship — clash of armoured  
rage —

Ambition soaring up the sky like flame —  
Interminable war that mortals wage  
From century to century the same.  
Still Fortune holds the crown for those who  
dare;

Mankind in many a distant elsewhere  
Leaps panting toward the promise of her  
face —

But here, no more of coveting nor care.  
No longer here the weltering human tide  
Sluices the market-place and scatters wide  
The weak as foam, to perish where they  
list.

Now by the sovereign Silence purified  
Spring showers all with fragrant amethyst.  
Were once these pulses violent and swift  
As those that shake the cities of to-day?  
How indolently sweet the petals drift  
From yonder nodding spray!

## IN THE ROMAN FORUM (continued)

Warming their broidered raiment in the sun  
The little bright-eyed lizards bask and run  
O'er fallen temples gracious in decay.  
Man's arrogance with calculated art  
Boasted in marble — now the quiet heart  
Of the Great Mother dreams eternal things  
In brief bright roses and ethereal green,  
Or more exuberant, sings  
In poppies poured profusely to the air  
From secret hoards of scarlet. Nothing  
seen  
But swoons with beauty — beauty every-  
where —  
Nothing but beauty . . . now.  
Here is the immortality of Rome.  
Not where the city rises, dome on dome,  
Seek we the living soul of ancient might,  
But in this temple of green silence — here  
Flame purer than the vestal is alight.  
The world again draws near  
In reverence, but now it comes to pay  
The tribute of a nobler coin than fear.  
In wondering worship, not in fierce dismay,



IN THE ROMAN FORUM (continued)

Men bow the knee to what of Rome remains.

Time's long lustration has effaced her stains.

All that is perishable now is past

And earth her portion tenderly transmutes

To evanescent beauty of her own,

Jubilant flowers and nectar-breathing fruits,

Leaving in deathless glory at the last

Divinity alone.

PERUGIA

FOR the sake of a weathered gray city set high  
on a hill  
To the northward I go,  
Where Umbria's valley lies mile upon emerald mile  
Outspread like a chart.  
The wind in her steep narrow streets is eternally chill  
From the neighbouring snow,  
But linger who will in the lure of a southerly smile,  
Here is my heart.

WROUGHT to a mutual blueness are mountains and sky;  
Intermingling they meet.  
Little gray breathings of olive arise from the plain  
Like sighs that are seen,

## PERUGIA (continued)

For man and his maker harmonious toil,  
and the sigh  
Of such labour is sweet,  
And the fruits of their patience are vistas  
of vineyards and grain  
In a glory of green.

NO wind from the valley that passes the  
casement but flings  
Invisible flowers.  
The carol of birds is a gossamer tissue of  
gold  
On a background of bells.  
Sweetest of all in the silence the nightingale  
sings  
Through the silver-pure hours,  
Till the stars disappear like a dream that  
may never be told,  
That the dawning dispels.

## PERUGIA (continued)

NEVER so darkling an alley but opens at last  
On unlimited space,  
Each gate is the frame of a vision that  
stretches away  
To the rims of the sky.  
Never a scar that was left by the pitiless  
past  
But has taken a grace  
Like the mark of a smile that was turned  
upon children at play  
In a summer gone by.

MANY the tyrants, my city, that held thee in  
thrall.  
What remains of them now?  
Names whispered back from the dark  
through a portal ajar —  
They come not again.  
By men thou wert made and wert marred,  
but outlasting them all  
Is the soul that is thou —  
A soul that shall speak to my soul till I too  
pass afar,  
And perchance, even then.

IN BOZEN OF A SUNDAY

**I**N Bozen of a Sunday, the air is gay with chim-  
ing;

In the valley full of belfries, every clapper is  
aswing;

Bell-song and bird-song, each with each is  
rhyming

In Bozen of a Sunday, when the hills are glad  
with Spring.

**I**N Bozen of a Sunday, between the walls of  
roses

That border merry Talfer with many-coloured  
sweet,

Children are gayer and sweeter than the posies,  
And they drown the river's chatter with the  
patter of their feet.

IN BOZEN OF A SUNDAY (continued)

THE boys and girls go walking, when Rosengarten's flushing.

Her eyes are on the mountain-peaks, but  
little does he care

For blush of the hills, when he sees his  
sweetheart blushing,

Or for sunset on the snows, when he can  
see it on her hair.

THE little feet, play-weary, stumble homeward all around them,

For a chill steals down the valley as the  
gold to silver gleams.

Shy cling their hands, as a touch unseen  
had bound them,

And his eyes are full of tenderness, and hers  
are full of dreams —

In Bozen of a Sunday, when the hills are  
glad with Spring.

ANNE HATHAWAY'S GARDEN

ON such a day of quiet rain  
When all the air was gray and sweet  
With unseen flowers, and Spring's dear pain  
Of longing in her pulses beat

SHE may have stood with arms outspread  
Among the box-trees dripping spice,  
And listened for his coming tread  
As for the harps of Paradise.

WE sigh for him whom God's red spur  
Drove glorious up the heights of tears,—  
But in the valley, what of her,  
And her long aching outgrown years?

THE HEART OF VENICE

HERE is no song that comes unsought  
Born of a mood a breath may chill.  
By labour was this beauty wrought.  
Not God himself by sovereign will  
Could shape this wonder like a hill  
Or bid it rise like moon and sun.  
Only through man such works are done.

NEED was that men should greatly do  
And greatly die, ere this could be.  
The blood of glory pulses through  
This golden-grounded imagery.  
The very bosom of the sea  
Has moulded to its ample grace  
The pavement of this holy place,



THE HEART OF VENICE (continued)

AS might a goddess deign to wear  
The garment by her priesthood made.  
The opulent shadows tame the air  
That softly moves as if it prayed  
Among the lives of men, portrayed  
So truly, that to-day we cry —  
“That is my brother — that is I.”

YET not immortal — is it true  
Such loveliness can disappear?  
Some day will see a richer blue  
Upon the sea, and through the clear  
And sunlit waters, glimpses dear  
Of beauty won at such a cost  
It never can be wholly lost.

THE deep that gave will take again —  
But this bright memory will awake  
Ambition in the hearts of men  
To build new beauty for the sake  
Of what has vanished, and to make  
Sublimar temples of the sea.  
If this were immortality?

## QUEEN MARY AT FOTHERINGAY

WHAT have I gained who gave so much?  
A crown too slippery for my clutch —  
A body misused and a heart abused.  
What have I gained for all I spent?  
Many a dead man's curse to rue,  
Many a lover and not one true,  
Many a bribe, though not my due —  
Yet I have lived, and am content.

SAY that I squandered life — confessed.  
Had I been miser of my best,  
To-day I would be in penury  
Even as now, a fool betrayed.  
The crown of stars and the nether flame  
Both have I proved in the teeth of blame.  
Have not the years in pride and shame  
Given the worth of all I paid?

QUEEN MARY AT FOTHERINGAY (cont.)

THE course I chose was the course I kept;  
In the face of doom like a flame I leapt.  
Bitter and sweet have I known complete —  
One adventure is left to try.  
Life I have finished, mire to throne —  
Here at life's end I stand alone.  
Headsman, warder of worlds unknown,  
Show me now what it means to die!

LUDWIG OF BAVARIA

I HAVE been set so high above mankind  
That all alone am I.  
Above me broods, ruthlessly dumb and blind,  
The riddle of the sky —  
The casket of the Undiscovered Light  
Whose vision makes divine,  
Hidden from lesser men's ignoble sight  
But destined to be mine.  
For I have risen to the final snow  
In solitude complete,  
And trodden all men live and die to know  
Under my mounting feet.  
Alone, alone I seek with soul afire  
The sacrament supreme.  
What anodyne has earth for my desire  
Who famish for a dream?  
Music is mine, and solitary splendour,  
White, sky-encroaching peaks —  
But oh, the call intolerably tender

## LUDWIG OF BAVARIA (continued)

From lips no mortal seeks,  
In lands the boldest wanderer never char-  
ted,  
Whose pinnacles of stone  
Inviolate, whose valleys virgin-hearted  
Open to me alone!  
But I am weary, for the time is long;  
Why does the dawn delay?  
Weary of even lightning-leaps of song,  
Weary of night and day,  
For voices call me, call me from my sleep  
So that I rest no more,  
Like ripples from an undiscovered deep  
Upon a lonely shore.  
Bloom speedily for me, Immortal Rose,  
My being to fulfil!  
Haste — for the silent skies above me close  
Darker . . . and darker still. . . .

## A LYNMOUTH WIDOW

**H**E was straight and strong, and his eyes  
were blue

As the summer meeting of sky and sea,  
And the ruddy cliffs had a colder hue  
Than flushed his cheek when he married  
me.

**W**E passed the porch where the swallows  
breed,

We left the little brown church behind,  
And I leaned on his arm, though I had no  
need,

Only to feel him so strong and kind.

**O**NE thing I never can quite forget;  
It grips my throat when I try to pray —  
The keen salt smell of a drying net  
That hung on the churchyard wall that day.

A LYNMOUTH WIDOW (continued)

HE would have taken a long, long grave —  
A long, long grave, for he stood so  
tall . . .

Oh God! the crash of a breaking wave,  
And the smell of the nets on the churchyard  
wall!

## THE LOVE OF WOMAN

**I**F he should come to me to-day  
In the strong beauty of his youth,  
Profuse of hope and rich in truth,—  
If he should come to me and say:  
“Give me your love! Of womankind  
“On you and you alone I call!”  
I could but answer, “Dear and blind,  
“What more is left for my bestowing?  
“Without your asking or your knowing  
“Have I not given all?”

**A**ND should he come to me some day  
When withered listless leaves are blown,  
Where I had waited long alone;  
If he should come to me and say:  
“Give me your love for charity;  
“My dreams are squandered everywhere.  
“My famished hopes fall dead from me  
“Like the dull harvest of the air.



THE LOVE OF WOMAN (continued)

" I seek no longer joy, but rest —  
" Brief peace upon a kindly breast  
" Till my tired heart is quiet clay."  
I could but say, " Love, while you live,  
" My love is neither mine to give  
" Nor mine to take away."

## A WISH

I WOULD that we had won of love  
More than the little coin thereof,  
And all the rest had flung away  
The gain supreme to keep;  
I would that we might understand  
All that in Eden God first planned,  
Ere ever men had learned to slay  
Or women learned to weep.  
But ah, that visions cannot last —  
That perfect moments fade so fast,  
And men to pettiness return  
Who spoke with God erstwhile!  
I would that we lay side by side  
And that the curious moonbeams pried  
In vain at our closed lids to learn  
The secret of our smile.

AN IDLE SONG

FREE living, free giving, may scarce be undone.

What magic recaptures the rays of the sun?  
They are fled, they are sped to the eyelids of  
men,

And the light that is given, none taketh again.  
Sap springing, lark singing, and young hearts  
afire

With the tender green flame of an April desire.

It may die, it may lie like brown reeds in the  
fen,

But the love that is given, none taketh again.

AMORINO

**W**AS it a mere caprice of mateless passion?  
So kind a memory that could never  
claim;  
Our little love, in quaintly childish fashion,  
Was not unworthy of the nobler name.  
Not the high god who touches the here-  
after,  
Bearing within his bosom life and death,  
But a slim strong Eros, winged with  
laughter,  
Globing bright bubble-moments with warm  
breath.

**B**EFORE the august gaze of mighty blisses  
That since have stooped to glorify our  
clay,  
All unabashed, he juggles our past kisses,  
And with a smile we watch him at his play.  
He never masked in majesty forbidden,

AMORINO (continued)

Nor filched the due of greater gods than he;  
Wherefore he keeps, in gentle mirth unchid-  
den,  
His little share of immortality.

SURPRISES

WHEN through the shadow thou shalt see  
Death smile  
And greet him as the sleepless greet the  
light,  
When thou shalt close thine eyes a little  
while  
To open them in perfectness of sight,  
Must not thy quickened spirit shrink for  
shame  
When touched by near Omniscience to confess  
How many blots of unexpected blame  
Sully thy life's apparent nobleness?  
But with the evil shall be manifest  
Unconscious virtue that from thee hath  
sprung;  
Good unpremeditated and unguessed,  
Rich harvest of a seed at random flung.  
That hour of vision shall to thee disclose  
My love for thee, a wild heart's thornless  
rose.

IN DEEP PLACES

I LOVE thee, dear, and knowing mine own  
heart

With every beat I give God thanks for this;  
I love thee only for the self thou art;  
No wild embrace, no wisdom-shaking kiss,  
No passionate pleading of a heart laid bare,  
No urgent cry of love's extremity —  
Strong traps to take the spirit unaware —  
Not one of these I ever had of thee.  
Neither of passion nor of pity wrought  
Is this, the love to which at last I yield,  
But shapen in the stillness of my thought  
And by a birth of agony revealed.  
Here is a thing to live while we do live  
Which honours thee to take and me to give.

HIS SONG FOR HER WAKING

'TIS dawn in the sky of the world,  
    'Tis dawn in the sky of my heart,  
And earth is the bud of a rose  
Whose petals are trembling apart;  
So I come to your door in the dawn  
And I breathe you my life in a word.  
You would smile, you would lean from  
    your window, my Queen,  
If you heard — if you heard.

THE earth is all throbbing with fire  
    And I am a pulse of the flame;  
All breathless the universe beats  
Like a heart that is tuned to your name,  
As the stars in their courses last night  
Kept time to each breath that you drew.  
But our passion is dumb — oh, my love, you  
    would come  
If you knew — if you knew —



HIS SONG FOR HER WAKING (continued)

**Y**OU would glow in the flush of the dawn  
    You glitter so coldly above.  
You would lean like a rose to his cry  
Who yearns to the lips of your love.  
You would raise him who faints at your feet  
To a height that his hope never dared.  
You would warm the poor clod in your arms  
    to a god —  
If you cared — if you cared.

## THE NARROW WAY

AT sunset the young monk leaned from the  
wall

To greet the fisher girl who passed below.  
She answered gay "Good even" to his call,  
But then he sighed, "Sunset or sunrise glow  
"Are both alike to me; ah, what of good  
"For one so sad, holds either night or day?"

*"'Tis twilight in the shadow of your hood —  
"Go pray, Father — go pray!"*

"MY soul is famished for the simple joys  
"Free to mankind — why not, alas, to  
me?

"The throbbing outer world's insistent  
noise

"Allures me like a magic melody.

"With wistfulness that warms to some-  
thing fonder

THE NARROW WAY (continued)

"I hear the village children at their play."

*"Their clamour could not reach the chapel yonder —*

*"Go pray, Father — go pray."*

"YOU are so sweet — Madonna's eyes are cold —

"Madonna's lips have never learned your grace.

"Ah, smile again that I may grow more bold!

"Why, hand in hand, should we not flee this place

"Of gnawing discontent and barren sorrow?"

*"Nay, Father, that's a deadly sin, they say —*

*"Beside. . . Uguccio takes me home to-morrow!*

*"Go pray, Father — go pray."*

THE END OF IT

THE earth weighs down my lids — they forget the feeling of tears;  
The heavy clods on my heart numb it to pleasure and pain,  
And my blood shall freeze or flame to your mood as in bygone years  
Never again, Beloved — never again.

I STROVE to see as you saw, I strove to hear as you heard,  
I strove to stride with your strength, catching my labouring breath,  
And never you slackened your speed to toss me a heartening word —  
Weary to death, Beloved — weary to death.

## THE END OF IT (continued)

**I**F you called in the name of our love, I would  
not open mine eyes;

If you called in the name of my sorrow, no  
sigh would stir in my breast;

If you called me with God's own voice, I  
would answer not nor arise,

Now that I rest, Beloved — now that I rest.

A MIRACLE

NEITHER in passion nor in play,  
But dreamily, half unaware,  
We kissed as drowsy children may,  
Sliding to sleep from evening prayer.  
So brief, so calm, the passing touch  
That meant so little — and so much.

FOR memory sees the wondrous thing  
The moment stood too near to know.  
The fragile innocence of spring  
I thought had faded long ago,  
Our quiet lips found blossoming yet  
Like an October violet.

## THE TOYS' COMPLAINT

WE sheltered women, love-enwrap,  
Whose every wish is gratified,  
From all adversity close lapt  
In tenderness and kindly pride —  
We from whose path you put aside  
The possibility of care,  
We women shielded and supplied —  
What burdens can we have to bear?

SMILING as at a child's demands  
You fill these idle days of ours;  
You give us roses for our hands  
And songs to sing among our flowers.  
We twine you garlands of delight —  
You only ask to find us fair  
When weary you come home at night. . . .  
Is not our burden light to bear?

THE TOYS' COMPLAINT (continued)

WE are the garden of your ease,  
And if we bloom, you are content.  
It would but rob you of your peace  
If to your loads our shoulders bent —  
But ah, to see you sad and spent!  
To know the pain we may not share!  
Pity us, Masters, and relent —  
This burden is too great to bear.



## THE FORFEIT

ONLY for this, dear heart, only for this  
Do I regret  
The hour earth fell away, and left our kiss  
A passionate star where soul and body met.  
Only for this, dear heart, only for this  
Would I — if it were possible — forget.  
For this — that I can never see your eyes  
Without remembering their transfigured  
light  
That shone upon me then  
As Love drew near and took us by surprise.  
That I can never give to you again  
The quiet-pulsing touch of friendship only,  
For memory of your touch that summer  
night.  
I know that you are weary, bruised and  
lonely,  
Craving a comrade's tranquil tenderness —  
But since to give you more I have no right,

## THE FORFEIT (continued)

I needs must give you less.  
Is this the inevitable tax of pain  
Because our love was fettered to a lie —  
That I must see you look to me in vain  
And never tell you why?  
Once, only once, if I might bring to you  
The comfortable balm for which you plead!  
Once, only once, if I might be and do  
All that you need!  
But slowly, surely, like a wall of stone,  
Our parted lives more hopelessly to sever,  
Rises this barrier — to be overthrown  
Never.  
Only for this, dear heart — only for this  
Do I regret. . . .

I WAS TOO PROUD

I WAS too proud to hazard all,  
Too prudent and too wise.  
I would not speak till I could see  
Surrender in her eyes.  
So patiently I held my peace  
And waited for the sign.  
I heard that she was dead, to-day —  
She whispered at the end, they say,  
God's name . . . and mine.

TO A PRESSED ROSE

LOVELY faded rose!

Had but my fortune beckoned me  
that way

Among the silver stirrings of the day  
That Nature for your blossom-triumph  
chose!

Had I but seen your maiden leaves unfold  
From your immaculate heart of fragrant  
gold!

I was not there; another passed — who  
knows

How many others, lovely faded rose?

And yet, had it been I

Who came between your crimson and the  
sky,

You would have been a rose among the  
rest —

A beauty-breathing joy upon my breast,  
And then — a rain of petals by the way.

TO A PRESSED ROSE (continued)

My thanks to God or man, who chose to lay  
    Your glowing over-sweet  
Within the cloistered calm of this retreat.  
I would not have you for my wearing — no.  
It had been easy to forget you, so.  
Now in my memory tenderly I close  
    A lovely faded rose.

IN MEMORY OF A DUMB FRIEND

STRANGE that so small mortality should  
leave

So large an emptiness! for as we grieve  
Your little life of seven happy years  
Ended for us, one who could understand  
Each subtle word, and answer hand with  
hand

Had hardly taken greater toll of tears.

YET why should we not mourn as for a friend?  
That name was yours; if every man would  
spend

His life as well, earth were not hard to save.  
Grant that God made your heart and brain  
but small.

What more has an archangel than his all?  
And all God gave to you, to us you gave.

TO A CHILD

LOVE me, till you learn to judge me,  
With candid sweetness unreserved.  
Your growing reason must begrudge me  
The honour I have not deserved.  
But linger not to look beyond  
When once the kindly veil is torn,  
And spare a heart that still is fond  
The torment of your wondering scorn.

## AUNT JANE

AUNT JANE has little shiny feet  
And pretty buttons in each ear;  
She has the nicest things to eat!  
I like to come and visit here.  
She has a dog — his name is Roy;  
He's great — we have a lot of fun.  
She hasn't any little boy  
And so she has to borrow one.

MY cousin Roy is very plain —  
I think he never combs his hair.  
I like him better than Aunt Jane —  
She has the kind of clothes that tear.  
Roy never gets too tired to play —  
He's always jolly — anyway,  
I like him better . . . through the  
day. . . .  
But when he goes to sleep at night  
He doesn't care for me a bit.



AUNT JANE (continued)

But I'm not scared without a light,  
Because Aunt Jane comes in to sit  
And hear my prayers, and tuck the spread  
Around my neck, and smooth my head,—  
And then I don't care how she's dressed,  
I know I love Aunt Jane the best.

AUNT JANE, of course, is very old;  
She must be twenty-three or four.  
Nothing I do can make her scold,  
Not even when I bang the door.  
The other day it made me cry  
To think how soon Aunt Jane will die.

LIE AWAKE SONGS

I

OFTEN when awake I lie  
Listening to the clocks go round  
Hours and hours, I wonder why  
My brother sleeps so sound.

2

THE city is so kind to me;  
It stays awake for company —  
It never sleeps at all.  
Its lamps are always burning bright  
From when my mother says good-night  
Until the milkmen call.  
The street is always full of wheels,  
Horse-carriages and aut'mobiles —  
The whole night long they pass,  
Carrying home to marble halls

LIE AWAKE SONGS (continued)

Princesses that have been to balls  
In little shoes of glass.  
Then there's the dog across the way —  
He must be dreaming of the day  
Or barking at a kitty —  
And people talking as they go . . .  
I often wonder do they know  
That I'm awake and like them so,  
Or is it just — the City?

3

**G**OD has a house three streets away,  
And every Sunday, rain or shine,  
My nurse goes there her prayers to say.  
She's told me of the candles fine  
That burning all night long they keep  
Because God never goes to sleep.  
Then there's a steeple full of bells;  
All through the dark the time it tells.  
I like to hear it in the night  
And think about those candles bright.  
I wonder if God stays awake

## LIE AWAKE SONGS (continued)

For kindness, like the furnace-man  
Who comes before it's day, to make  
Our house as pleasant as he can.  
I like to watch the sky grow blue  
And think perhaps the whole world through  
No one's awake but just us three,—  
God and the furnace-man and me.

A POET

**H**IS lips have been hallowed with flame;  
By pain they are pure to repeat  
The wonderful whispers of God  
That speak in the hush of his soul;  
Yet if we would trace where he trod  
Toward the glorious lure of his goal,  
In what bitter byways of shame  
Are the prints of his wandering feet!

**H**IS eyes have the light of the stars  
Whose secrets they search unafraid.  
For him the great mystery wakes  
To beauty whose vision is power;  
But his face is disfigured with scars  
That warfare ignoble has made,  
And idly his carelessness breaks  
A heart like the stem of a flower.

A POET (continued)

AND yet, to far valleys forlorn  
Where saints without aureole grope  
To garland the altars of light  
In a blindness of patience and prayer,  
Like the shout of a trumpet is borne  
The vision that flashed on his sight,  
And they hear in their twilight of hope,  
A triumph of dawn in the air.

ALL are but parts of the Whole.  
He laboureth never in vain  
Who chose in marred vessels of clay  
To light the unquenchable spark.  
The seer who fell by the way —  
The steadfast, uncomforted soul —  
God, who gave birth to the twain,  
Is joining their hands in the dark.

A MINOR POET

THE firefly, flickering about  
In busy brightness, near and far  
Lest not his little lamp go out  
Because he cannot be a star.  
He only seeks, the hour he lives,  
Bravely his tiny part to play,  
And all his being freely gives  
To make a summer evening gay.

ONE OF MANY

SOME sing among the trumpets in the fray —  
Such breathless glory hers might never be;  
Her heart and voice were all too gentle-gray  
For such high psalmody.

BUT she could croon a little child to sleep,  
And whisper in the twilight to a maid  
Who felt within her heart the springtime  
leap —  
Half-joyous, half-afraid.

SHE knew no ringing war-cry for the strong;  
Her voice no latent might to action  
charmed;  
But silent rallied to her soothing song  
The fallen, the disarmed.



ONE OF MANY (continued)

NOR rose nor laurel to her burial bring —  
Above her let the green sod simply close.  
Some day, from that forgotten mound may  
spring  
A laurel — or a rose.

WHOM THE GODS LOVE

**G**IVE me thy youth, give me thy urgent  
youth;

Thy youth to me, who know not youth nor  
age.

For those who serve me I have little ruth;  
My flaying scourge shall be thine only wage,  
And yet I call thee from the easy way  
Knowing, despite thy fear, thou wilt obey.  
Give me thy youth.

**G**IVE me thy heart, give me thy passionate  
heart;

Thy heart to me, who know not love nor  
hate.

Thy flesh may be a garment rent apart,  
Thy soul may shiver bare and desolate,  
But though the snug hearth beckon thy de-  
sire,

Me thou shalt follow from the lesser fire.  
Give me thy heart.

WHOM THE GODS LOVE (continued)

**G**IVE me thy life, no less — thy human life;  
Thy life to me who know not death nor  
birth,  
And I will give thee hungering and strife,  
The empty praise and mockery of earth,  
And at the last I will give thee, even I,  
One boon supreme — the readiness to die.  
Give me thy life.

THE GUEST

**T**HOU who tarriest at my gate,  
Pass along the sunny street.  
Do faces marred as mine is, wait  
With smiles a guest to greet?

**L**OVE, who touched my lips with fire,  
Sadly smiling, granted me  
The fulness of my fool's desire —  
A scar for all to see.

**P**ASS — thou knowest I do not dare  
From my toil mine eyes to raise  
Lest I see thee standing there  
As in those other days.

**B**ALEFUL Guest, hast thou not wrought  
All thy will of evil yet?  
Hast forgot thy scar, that naught  
Can soothe me to forget?

THE GUEST (continued)

**C**HILD, lay by thy bitterness —  
Evil would I work thee none  
Rather would I bid thee bless  
What cannot be undone.

**E**YES grown soft with many a tear  
Are not hasty to be hard,  
And comfort speaks to shame and fear  
Through lips my fire hath scarred.

**D**O not fear to lift thine eyes,  
Do not fear to ope thy door.  
Thou shalt know my Paradise  
Who knewest my Hell of yore.

**'T**IS the narrow hearts that break  
And in breaking stand confessed  
Happier so, if thus they make  
The Greater Love their guest.

## THE VOICE OF THE UNBORN

FROM the Unseen I come to you to-night,  
The Hope and Expectation of your world.  
I am Omniscience that seeks of you  
A tongue to utter the eternal thought.  
I am Omnipotence that claims of you  
The tools whereby my power may profit  
earth.  
All Love am I, that seeks to spend itself  
Embodied in a human sacrament,  
For I have heard the wailing of the world,  
Not faint and far away as in a dream,  
But very near — and lo, I understood  
It need not be. Wherefore I come to you.

O YOU to whom my tenderness goes out,  
To whom I fain would bring an end of  
groans  
And blind, bewildered tears, a cloudless  
dawn

THE VOICE OF THE UNBORN (continued)

Of unimagined joy and strength unguessed,  
What welcome will you give to me, O  
World?

Since I whose dwelling is the universe  
Will stoop to walls and rafters for your sake,  
What is the home you have prepared for me?

O Men and Women, is it beautiful,  
A place of peace, a house of harmony?  
Will you be glad, who know me as I am,  
To see me make my habitation there?  
Since I will hamper my divinity  
With weight of mortal raiment for your  
sake,

What vesture have you woven for my wear?  
O Man and Woman who have fashioned it  
Together, is it fine and clean and strong,  
Made in such reverence of holy joy,  
Of such unsullied substance, that your hearts  
Leap with glad awe to see it clothing me,  
The glory of whose nakedness you know?

THE VOICE OF THE UNBORN (continued)

O H long long silence of the wakening years!  
Thus have I called since man took shape  
as man;  
Thus will I call till all mankind shall heed  
And know me, who to-day am one with God,  
And whom to-morrow shall behold, your  
child.

*From the Unseen I come to you to-night. . . .*



NEW LIFE

SPRING comes laughing down the valley  
All in white, from the snow  
Where the winter's armies rally  
Loth to go.  
Beauty white her garments shower  
On the world where they pass,—  
Hawthorn hedges, trees in flower,  
Daisies in the grass.  
Tremulous with longings dim,  
Thickets by the river's rim  
Have begun to dream of green.  
Every tree is loud with birds.  
Bourgeon, heart,— do thy part!  
Raise a slender stalk of words  
From a root unseen.

## THE STANDARD BEARER

**S**WIFTLY the shrieking fire-bird gleams  
Before his blank, bewildered face.  
Close to his ear the bullet screams,  
The battle swirls about his place.

**O**NE thought alone stands clear to him  
Whose rigid arms the Standard keep,  
Before whose desperate eyes and dim  
The ranks reel by as seen in sleep,

**O**NE longing — in the orchard lane,  
Far from this blazing blare of death,  
To stand at twilight once again  
And draw one deep, untroubled breath.

## THE DOUBLE CROWNING

LAVISH roses carpeted the ways for him;  
Noiseless beat his charger's feet, passing  
through the town.  
Lavish banners made the walls ablaze for  
him,  
Dancing like his young blue eyes beneath the  
golden crown.  
From every crowded alley there surged into  
the street  
A sweep of lifted faces, a wave of living foam.  
Silken sleeves of maidens caressed his ar-  
moured feet;  
All the bells were shouting when the king  
came home.

THE DOUBLE CROWNING (continued)

SILENT, smitten, gazed he o'er the press of  
them

Where upon the market-place the Crucified  
looked down.

Silent, smiting, fell beyond the guess of them  
The shadow of the Crown of Thorns across  
the golden crown.

Beyond the shimmering banners he saw the  
walls of stone,

Below the trampled flowers the streets that  
had run red,

And heavy fell upon him the burden of his  
throne —

Amid the sheaves of gladness the harvest of  
the dead.

THE DOUBLE CROWNING (continued)

**R**UTHLESS ages took that hour their toll of  
him.

All the joyous clamour of his people could  
not drown

Ruthless ages crying to the soul of him,  
“Evermore the Crown of Thorns beneath  
the golden crown!”

The heedless merry city, that trod its blos-  
somed floor,

The rainbow of the banners, the drunken  
bells aswing,

The brave blue eyes whose boyhood was  
gone forevermore,

The shouting of the people — the silence of  
the king!

BEAUTY

**B**LESSED be Beauty, that awaits  
Our vision at our very gates!  
There hangs above these meadows low  
As richly strange an opal glow  
As deepens into violet  
Behind a Moorish minaret,  
Or where the Sphinx outstares the years.  
The little hills of Ramapo  
Smile eastward full as goldenly  
When fades the last supplanted star  
As mighty mountains, rising far  
Beyond the leagues of sapphire sea  
That cradle white Algiers.

**B**LESSED be God who gave to me  
A thankful heart and eyes that see,  
Who set my feet in quiet ways  
Amid his garden sweet with praise.  
And yet — oh Father! what of them

## BEAUTY (continued)

Who may not even touch the hem  
Of Beauty's robe — at the harsh urge  
Of hopeless pain and poverty  
Forever plying weary hands,  
Forever straining weary eyes,  
To whom the sun's ecstatic rise  
Means one day more of toil's demands —  
The lifting of the scourge?

AND yet, once more — a Beauty lies  
Beyond the gaze of any eyes,  
Beyond the sunset islands far,  
Above the throbbing morning-star,  
And deeper than the sea is deep.  
I have beheld, as one in sleep  
Beholds a dream scarce understood,  
Two lives defaced as failures are,  
Ruins to pity and despise,  
Maimed butts of fortune, best forgot.  
These captives of the sordid lot  
Looked in each other's faded eyes  
And all their world was good.

## THE SACRIFICE

**P**ALE lips that trembled under mine  
    She brought to me.  
    A love less human than divine  
    They taught to me.  
    But now too fixedly they smile,—  
    Too ruddily —  
    Set, like a vampire's, to beguile  
    Men bloodily.

**T**HOUGH time has graven on her brow  
    No change to me,  
    The eyes she turns upon me now  
    Are strange to me.  
    Ah, dear lost love, what fiend has caught  
    The soul of you,  
    That in our happy days I thought  
    The whole of you?



THE SACRIFICE (continued)

**A**LAS, 'twas I, to whom she gave  
Too royally.

She loved me from my living grave  
Too loyally.

Heedless of all that might befall,  
The cost to her  
Unreckoning, she gave me all  
That's lost to her.

**S**HE bears the burden of the sin  
Once bound on me.

She takes the rags to wrap her in  
She found on me.

Thou God of Justice, I have lost  
The way to her.

Take thou my life, and all it cost  
Repay to her!

## THE LAME CHILD

**H**E passed along our village street;  
The fame of him had gone before  
And many ran on whispering feet  
To mock or wonder or appeal.  
I caught my child from where he lay  
And stood expectant at the door.  
Many the sick he healed that day,  
But mine he did not heal.

**H**E paused before us where we stood  
And looked into my boy's blue eyes —  
Those eyes of tortured babyhood  
Questioning life with hurt surprise.  
It would have taken but a word  
To make the future sweet and clear —  
Many the prayers that day he heard,  
But mine he did not hear.

THE LAME CHILD (continued)

**Y**ET this he did — his head he bent  
And kissed my child upon the cheek.  
He turned upon me, as he went,  
Eyes that were wonderful with tears.  
Silent I shrank before the deeps  
Of mysteries too great to speak —  
But oh, my patient son who creeps  
Along his crippled years!

GYPSY-HEART

MY grandsire was a vagabond  
Who made the Road his bride.  
He left his son a wanderer's heart  
And little enough beside;  
And all his life my father heard  
The fluting of a hidden bird  
That lured him on from hedge to hedge  
To walk the world so wide.

AND now he walks the worlds beyond  
And drifts on hidden seas  
Undesecrated by a chart —  
Blithe derelict at ease.  
And sometimes when I halt at night,  
In answer to my campfire's light  
His own uplifts a glowing wedge  
Among the Pleiades.

GYPSY-HEART (continued)

WOMEN are fair but all too fond;  
Home holds a man too fast.  
I'll choose for mine a freeman's part  
And sing as I go past.  
No lighted windows beckon me,  
The open sky my canopy.  
I'll camp upon Creation's edge,  
A wanderer to the last.

## THE VAGABOND GROWN OLD

SO warm the lighted windows glow  
Across the darkness and the snow —  
The trodden road, the sodden road,  
The road wherein I chose to go.

THE winter skies are steely gray —  
The winter stars are far away.  
Light were my feet when winds were sweet,  
But bitter going's mine to-day.

YET as I trudge, I needs must sing,  
For be he vagabond or king,  
A man must choose what he will lose —  
And I have known the road in spring.

## CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT

**B**LAME us not, ah, blame us not, ye folk who  
love the sun,  
Whose longings haunt the fields at noon,  
the ingleside at night;  
For we are of another blood and feel our  
pulses run  
As run the tides to meet the moon and leap  
beneath her light.

**W**E sit beside your hearth-stones with our  
faces to the fire,  
But our hearts within are straitened — (do  
ye ever understand?)  
For we long to turn away — yet dare not  
yield to the desire —  
Where the moonlight at the window beck-  
ons, beckons like a hand.

CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT (continued)

**T**HE household phrases come to us as in a  
tongue unknown.

We gaze at you unseeing, for our thoughts  
are far away

Like scattered flakes of star-dust on the fly-  
ing cloud-rack blown

Beyond the placid vision of the children of  
the day.

**B**LAME us not, ye quiet ones who crouch be-  
side the flame

And rule it as ye rule your souls, with meas-  
ured, tranquil hand.

Nay, but my words are idle. Give us neither  
praise nor blame,

Only be blind forever, since ye cannot under-  
stand.



## THE LITTLE PEOPLE

**B**ECAUSE I dreamed with open eyes and  
watched the stars at night,  
Because I loved the forest and wandered  
there alone,  
The Little Faery People that mock at human  
might  
They set a spell upon me and chose me for  
their own.

**T**HE Little People told me of a country  
strange and sweet —  
Built with words of beauty I saw its tow-  
ers rise;  
But I knew my mother listened for the com-  
ing of my feet —  
In tears the vision darkened and vanished  
from mine eyes.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE (continued)

THE Little People bade me choose — to cast  
with them my lot,  
Or nevermore to see them for mine own kin-  
dred's sake.  
Their deep eyes yearned upon me, but I  
could heed them not.  
My people were my people — what choice  
was mine to make?

MY people are my people and dear they are  
to me;  
Yet sometimes comes a longing till I  
hardly dare to pray,  
For that far land of wonder that I shall  
never see  
And for the Little People from whom I  
turned away.

## HERE STOOD A HOUSE

**H**ERE stood a house; we now can only guess  
From what scant lore the bare foundation  
yields  
The building's fashion, whose calm comeli-  
ness  
Complacent looked across the fruitful fields,  
This was a home — now fire has laughed  
and fled  
Leaving a wreck instead.

**T**HIS was a home for human comfort  
raised —  
Now the shy creatures of the air and grass  
Nest in the blackened pit and start amazed  
If any human foot too near them pass.  
Merciless tranquil Nature takes again  
The land she lent to men.

HERE STOOD A HOUSE (continued)

**B**UT pity not this house, for while it stood  
Its walls were warm with comfort and en-  
shrined

Glad hearts that savoured life and found it  
good.

It was a temple of the quiet mind.

Its very altar's consecrated glow

Has wrought its overthrow.

**H**ERE was no shameful torture of decay;  
The vivid end with sudden glory came.

In terrible beauty all was swept away,

Man's dearest art translated into flame.

So swift and shining may thy coming be,

Enlightening Death, to me.

## THE CRICKET IN THE PATH

**S**HE passed through the shadowy garden, so  
tall and so white,  
Her eyes on the stars and her face like an an-  
gel's upturned,  
And it seemed to my thought that the dusk  
round her head with the light  
Of an aureole burned.

**B**UT where she had trodden unseeing, I found  
on the path  
A cricket, so frail that her light foot had  
maimed it, yet strong  
To valiantly pipe, tiny hero, a faint aftermath  
Of its yesterday song.

THE CRICKET IN THE PATH (continued)

AND I whispered, "Alas, Little Brother, why  
must it befall

That the passing of angels but cripples and  
leaves us to die?

Poor imp of the greensward, God trumpets  
me clear in thy call;

Thou art braver than I.

"THE Bright Ones of Heaven have trodden  
me down as they passed;

I crawl in their footsteps a trampled and  
impotent thing.

I know not the reason, nor question hence-  
forth. To the last,

While I live, I will sing."

THREE WOMEN

FIAMMETTA

HER speech like a tame serpent hisses;  
She glows like a flower of the south;  
The bruises of yesterday's kisses  
Are purple to-day on her mouth.  
Time bears from her beauty no plunder  
Nor kindles a soul in her eyes;  
And to-morrow — what is there, I wonder,  
To live when she dies?

## THREE WOMEN (continued)

## SYLVIA

**I**N the twilight was her birth  
Of a passion and a prayer;  
Half of heaven, half of earth,  
Kin to wildlings of the air.  
Finely tuned to joy and pain,  
At a breath her mind will stir;  
Love may hurt his hands in vain  
At the doorless heart of her.  
Like an opal, fair with flaws,  
Rarely blessed, darkly cursed,  
She was made in scorn of laws,  
Not quite human from the first.



## THREE WOMEN (continued)

G—

SISTER is she to woodlands deep  
And quiet-bosomed noonday skies;  
To calm, encircling leagues of sea  
Unfathomed in serenity.  
Not over-quick to laugh or weep  
Are the clear candours of her eyes.  
The still, unboasting strength is hers  
That stays the immemorial hills.  
Comfort and cheer her presence lays  
Like footprints all along her ways;  
The simplest of Love's ministers,  
Unconscious what a place she fills.

## THE CHILD IN BLACK

OUT in the street the children play;  
They shout and laugh till I come by,  
Then they are still and go away —  
I wonder why.

AND grown-up people's faces too —  
Until they see me, they are glad.  
I wonder what it is I do  
That turns them sad.

AND father — when he looks at me  
He is sad too, and though he tries  
To wink them back, I always see  
Tears in his eyes.

Nobody looks at me the same  
Since mother went to Heaven to stay.  
Do they think I am to blame  
For sending her away?

ON A HILL-TOP

**S**TEEP the ascent to which we laughing bent;  
Slowly we left the weary slope behind.  
Now hand in hand upon the crest we stand  
Amid the shouting welcome of the wind.

**I** TOO rejoice with its exultant voice  
That we upon this hill-top once have stood  
Before we die, together, you and I,  
To see our world and know that it is good.

**T**O find the worth of this perplexing earth  
Which yet is of our heaven the only gate;  
Where life must be ere immortality  
Can its transfiguration consummate.

ON A HILL-TOP (continued)

THE test we need ere spirit may succeed  
To perfect power and unimagined  
scope —  
Where dreams untried must ever dreams  
abide  
And hopeless is the unattempted hope.

WE who have caught the substance of our  
thought  
May smile triumphant though our path-  
ways part.  
You of my best forever stand possessed,  
And greater for your greatness is my heart.

HENCE we shall turn more eager to discern  
The hid Shekinah of our neighbour's soul,  
Stronger to dare our brief blind part to bear  
In the slow silent growth of God's great  
Whole.

ON A HILL-TOP (continued)

A WORD, the flower of this uplifted hour  
Shall turn the chill of time and space to  
mirth;  
A deed that springs from these forgotten  
things  
Shall link us yet across the breadth of  
earth —

SHALL link us yet, although we may forget.  
Our thoughts may pass, our inmost selves  
endure.  
Yea, life and death may come and go like  
breath —  
Wrought in our souls, this moment lives se-  
cure.

DAWN

GREEN bud of dawn  
That shyly in the east now dost unfold  
The glowing garments of thy heart of gold,  
I look to thee across the shadowy lawn  
Hoary with dew.  
Purged by clean slumber as a soul by death  
I lift my brow to meet thy blessed breath.  
All hail, thou messenger of Him who saith,  
“Lo, I make all things new.”

THE early breeze  
Quickens to sudden whispering all the  
trees;  
The orchard yeomen in their sturdy ranks,  
The slender cedars halted on the flanks  
Of every hill, the copse's quivering green —  
Even the height serene  
Of the old hemlocks is a moment stirred  
As if among their aged boughs they heard

DAWN (continued)

The magic murmur of that master-word  
Thou daily speakst man's weariness to  
cheer,  
O Dawn — would man but hear.

A SIGN from Heaven long ago men sought,  
And he to whom their questionings were  
brought  
Marvelled in sadness; how should even he  
Give signs to them who had no eyes to see?  
Dear God, how blindly do thy children trace  
This marvellous earth-manuscript of thine!  
Weary of study, we are baffled yet  
By the great lessons for our learning set,  
And clamour eagerly with lifted face  
To Heaven for a sign.

THERE shall no sign be given,  
For we are hedged with portents undi-  
vined.  
God waits until the fetters of the mind  
At last be riven.  
And as we grope

DAWN (continued)

Amid the growing glory, we behold  
The Dawn's recurrent miracle unfold  
The heavenly word for hope.  
The clouds of yesterday,  
Although they smother all the blue, avail  
No whit the mounting of the sun to stay,  
Who like a strong young king in golden  
mail  
Leaps up behind the gray.  
Earth, air, and sea may rage in mortal strife  
But calmly certain, over death and life  
Rises the still, unconquerable Day.  
And so shall Man arise  
From sullen-clotted clouds of past mistake,  
Sorrow and disappointment, and awake  
With some indomitable dawn, to break  
The seal of Paradise.



## THE HERO

THEY asked him for his story, when he came  
Battered and glorious from the floating  
hell

Where he had wrung his victory from death.  
But he, the hero, had no tale to tell —  
Simply he gave them answer, with a smile  
That made them flinch and take a quicker  
breath —

“I only know we worked in sweat and flame  
“And it was well worth while.”

SO you shall stand some day, amazed and  
faint

Among the wondering angels, file on file  
Of beautiful bright faces, all ablaze  
With your achievement, vivid with your  
praise,  
Asking of you, their bleeding warrior-saint,  
Your own triumphant tale of battle won.

THE HERO (continued)

And you, who knew not all that you had  
done,  
Shall gaze bewildered on them, reeling yet  
From those long years of mortal weariness.  
No hope of this upheld you in the stress —  
You only knew you wrought in blood and  
sweat,  
And it was well worth while.

IMMORTAL

**B**ECAUSE your hand  
Grew tired and laid the busy brush  
aside;  
Because your weary eyes forewent their  
sight,  
Shall none of all the pictures you had planned  
Take form and colour for the world's de-  
light —  
Because you died?

**T**HE hope that kept  
Through patient years of uncon-  
genial toil  
Your spirit's lamp sustained with sacred oil,  
The dream and the desire that never slept —  
Did all the wonder-world that was your art  
Stop with your heart?

IMMORTAL (continued)

**A** TIME so brief  
After your long probation, to de-  
clare  
Your hoarded visions—strangely hard it  
seems!  
Is even God so rich beyond belief  
That he from his eternity could spare  
Your waiting dreams?

**H**E does not waste.  
A thought once born, forevermore  
must live.  
Bountiful spirit, that so loved to give,  
With what a high delight you now dispense  
In glorious largess, without stint or haste,  
Your opulence!

IMMORTAL (continued)

I SEE you guide  
The hand of some young painter to  
reveal

The truth you lived so many years to feel,  
Your joy in his achievement doubly deep.  
Your joy . . . ah, how have we the heart to  
weep  
Because you died?

TO WALTER SCOTT

MELROSE

HOW often has he lingered here alone  
In such a golden evensong of spring,  
Making the eye-sweet melody of stone  
More lovely by his words' accompanying —  
Singing for very youth of heart, compelled  
By the keen urge of beauty, even as now  
Tweed sings along the valley, April-swelled,  
While the green slopes flush slowly to the  
plow.

ABBOTSFORD

THIS dream come true in quaintly towered  
stone,  
This palace of desire's accomplishment,  
Here in his thought already had he known  
A sunset calm of richly earned content,  
When a harsh clarion summoned him to  
fight  
In sordid lists, to purge another's shame.  
Harp-hearted, he rang true, and proved him  
knight  
Of that high chivalry who reck not fame,  
Being content to stand with shield unstained  
Before God's face. Crown with a nation's  
meed  
The Bard — but here, where patient and  
constrained  
He toiled, when he had hoped to soar in-  
deed,  
Humbled, be still. His victory is gained  
And of earth's wordy praise there is no need.

DRYBURGH

HERE lies his battered armour, hacked and  
scarred

By the long conflict. Look, what fitter  
place

To hold the garb so honourably marred!  
Green house of sleep, from which the years  
efface

One after one, man's futile trceries,  
As one by one frail children of the pen  
Faint slowly to forgotten silences.  
Naught is immortal but the God in men.









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